02017

1968/02/26

The fact that the U.S. imperialists used bombs, bullets, and toxic gas to successively attack a series of cities, provincial capitals, district capitals, and villages, to destroy the populated areas in the south, to massacre civilians, and to destroy the people's houses and property once more proves that the U.S. Thieu-Ky clique disregards common moral principles and international law.

It is obvious that the U.S. imperialists and their Thieu-Ky lackeys are the most frightening fascist murderers of the present era. These towering crimes of the Americans and puppets have laid bare their cruel and savage nature and, at the same time, demonstrated that they are dying.

The committee for denouncing the war crimes committed by the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys in South Vietnam energetically denounces the above-mentioned crimes of the Americans and puppets before public opinion in and outside the country and fully supports the 15 February 1968 statement of the NFLSV Central Committee condemning the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys for their massacre of our compatriots.

It is certain that the frightening criminal actions of the Americans and puppets cannot shake the South Vietnamese people. It heightens the hatred of our people for the countrygrabbers and countrysellers. To avenge the compatriots who were killed by the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, all our troops and people will take advantage of past victories to surge forward, attack continually, deal harder blows at the enemy continually, annihilate as many U.S. aggressors and their lackeys as possible, and advance toward achieving complete victory.

WHEELER TRIP TO ASSESS NEW U.S. PREDICAMENT

Hanoi in Vietnamese to South Vietnam 0330 GMT 25 Feb 68 S

[Text] According to Western news agencies, on 23 February Johnson sent Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff General Wheeler to South Vietnam. Dealing with Wheeler's trip to Saigon, AFP on 23 February said: Wheeler's trip is aimed at firmly grasping the real situation, which is alarming and runs counter to all the optimistic statements made by a number of U.S. military commanders at the end of 1967, when Wheeler again came to Saigon.

Dealing with the objectives of Wheeler's trip to Saigon, REUTERS on 23 February pointed out: In addition to trying to boost the morale of defeated General Westmoreland and his clique, Wheeler's main task is to make a comprehensive assessment of the military situation following the recent general offensive and spontaneous uprisings of the southern armed forces and people so that he can present a report to new U.S. Defense Secretary Clifford.

Wheeler will also have to settle the contradictions between Westmoreland and General Cushman, commander of the U.S. Marines in South Vietnam. Dealing with these contradictions, REUTERS said: General Wheeler will have to settle the strained relations between General Westmoreland and General Cushman. The Westmoreland-Cushman dispute arose from the fact that staff officers of Westmoreland's command in Saigon have criticized not only the failures encountered by the U.S. Marines in implementing the pacification plan but also the deployment of two U.S. infantry divisions to the northern provinces of South Vietnam, which had been regarded as the U.S. Marines' area of responsibility.

The U.S. Marines nurse a grudge against Westmoreland, because he sent his assistant, General Abrahms, to Phu Bai to assume direct command of the U.S. troops stationed in the First Corps provinces. This means that Abrahms holds a position superior to Cushman's. The U.S. Marines also nurse a grudge against the new U.S. units which accompanied Abrahms to Phu Bai, because the Marines content that the establishment of the Abrahms command constitutes a disregard not only for their commander, General Cushman, but also for the U.S. Marine Crops.

Along with Wheeler's trip to Saigon, in the United States, Wheeler's Joint Chiefs of Staff has asked that 50,000 reservists be called up and that the April draft quota be raised to 48,000 men in order to obtain more troops for the Vietnam war theater. This indicates that the U.S. imperialists are still stubbornly pursuing their war of aggression, despite the extremely serious defeats they have recently suffered in South Vietnam. Yet, no matter how many more troops Johnson may send to South Vietnam, the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, who are taking advantage of their victories to surge forward, will certainly crush all of the U.S. imperialists' new adventurous military steps.

U.S. BOMBS HANOI, 2,770TH AIRCRAFT DOWNED

Account of Hanoi Raid

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0550 GMT 25 Feb 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--At 0300 on 24 February, when the Hanoi populace was sound asleep, marauding U.S. aircraft sneaked in and dropped bombs on a laboring people's residential area in the Hai Ba Trung district in the heart of the capital city.

During their 20-minute attack, the U.S. air pirates destroyed or heavily damaged many dwelling houses, killed 12 inhabitants and wounded 16 others, mostly children and old persons who had no time to get to shelter. The family of Tran Vang Bonb lost four among its five members, including a two-year-old child.

U.S. aircraft also dropped many delayed-action bombs on this heavily populated quarter. But the cowardly pirates could not escape punishment. One of their planes was knocked down by the highly vigilant antiaircraft gunners of Hanoi.

Latest Downing

Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1437 GMT 24 Feb 68 B

[Text] At 1925 today the U.S. bandits sent two jetplanes to surreptitiously intrude into the airspace of Ha Tay. Upholding vigilance, the local army and people immediately opened fire and shot down one plane on the spot before it could perpetrate crimes. Ha Tay's glorious feat of arms brought to 2,770 the total number of U.S. aircraft downed over North Vietnam.

Report of 2,769th

Hanoi VNA International Service in English 0605 GMT 24 Feb 68 B

[Text] Hanoi--One U.S. jetplane was shot down by the Hanoi air defense at 0300 today as U.S. aircraft attacked a suburban area of the capital city. Yesterday afternoon, the people's armed forces in Nghe An knocked down an A-6 plane during a U.S. air raid on the northern part of the province. This brought the total U.S. plane losses in North Vietnam to 2,769.